

HIV PREVALENCE, INCIDENCE, BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNICATION SURVEY 2005

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A collaborative research effort of
Human Sciences Research Council,
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Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Evaluation (CADRE)



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Background to the study

- The present study is a follow-on from a study conducted in 2002 using the same methodology
- Population-based studies are increasingly used to understand the broader aspects of HIV prevalence and *complement* findings of annual antenatal surveys

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Survey design

- A cross-sectional survey of the entire South African population aged two years and older *living in households*
- Sample included people living in hostels, but *excluded* prisoners, military and police barracks, university residences, patients in hospitals and children under 2
- Sampling is based on a master sample of households developed by the HSRC based on the 2001 census
- This sample is stratified by province and geotype of EA
- In 2002 an oral specimen collection device was used, whereas in 2005 blood spots were taken through finger-pricks
- Blood spots allowed for incidence testing
- Similar questionnaires used in both surveys

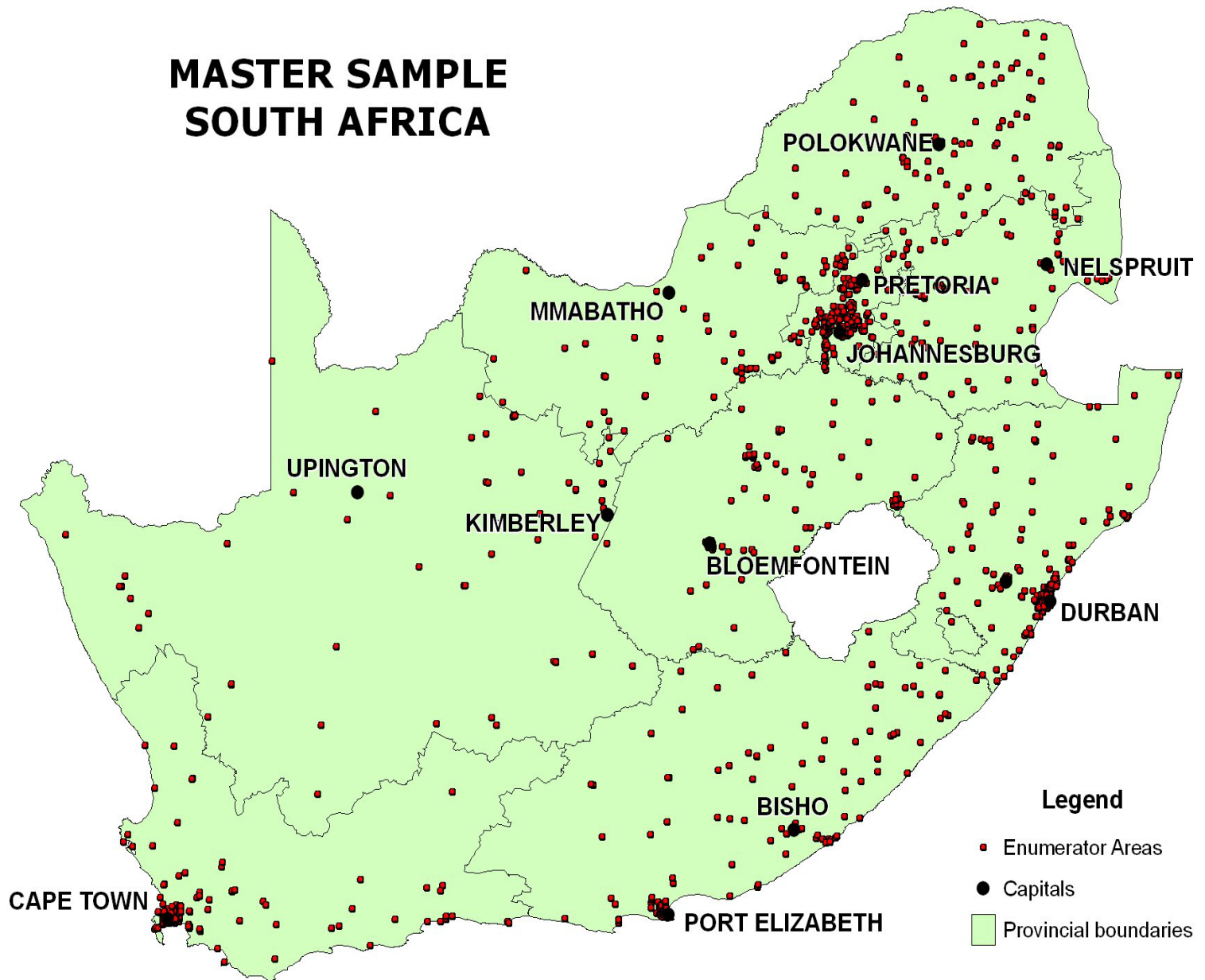
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MASTER SAMPLE SOUTH AFRICA



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Sampling rates: 2005 and 2002

	2005	2002
Household level response	84.1%	71.1%
Individuals interviewed	96%	73.7%
Sample of respondents tested	15,851	8,428
Individuals interviewed	96%	73.7%
Interviewed and tested for HIV	65.4%	62.3%
African interviewed and tested	69.8%	64.8%
White interviewed and tested	45.3%	46.4%
Coloured interviewed and tested	72.3%	68.0%
Indian interviewed and tested	51.3%	56.1%

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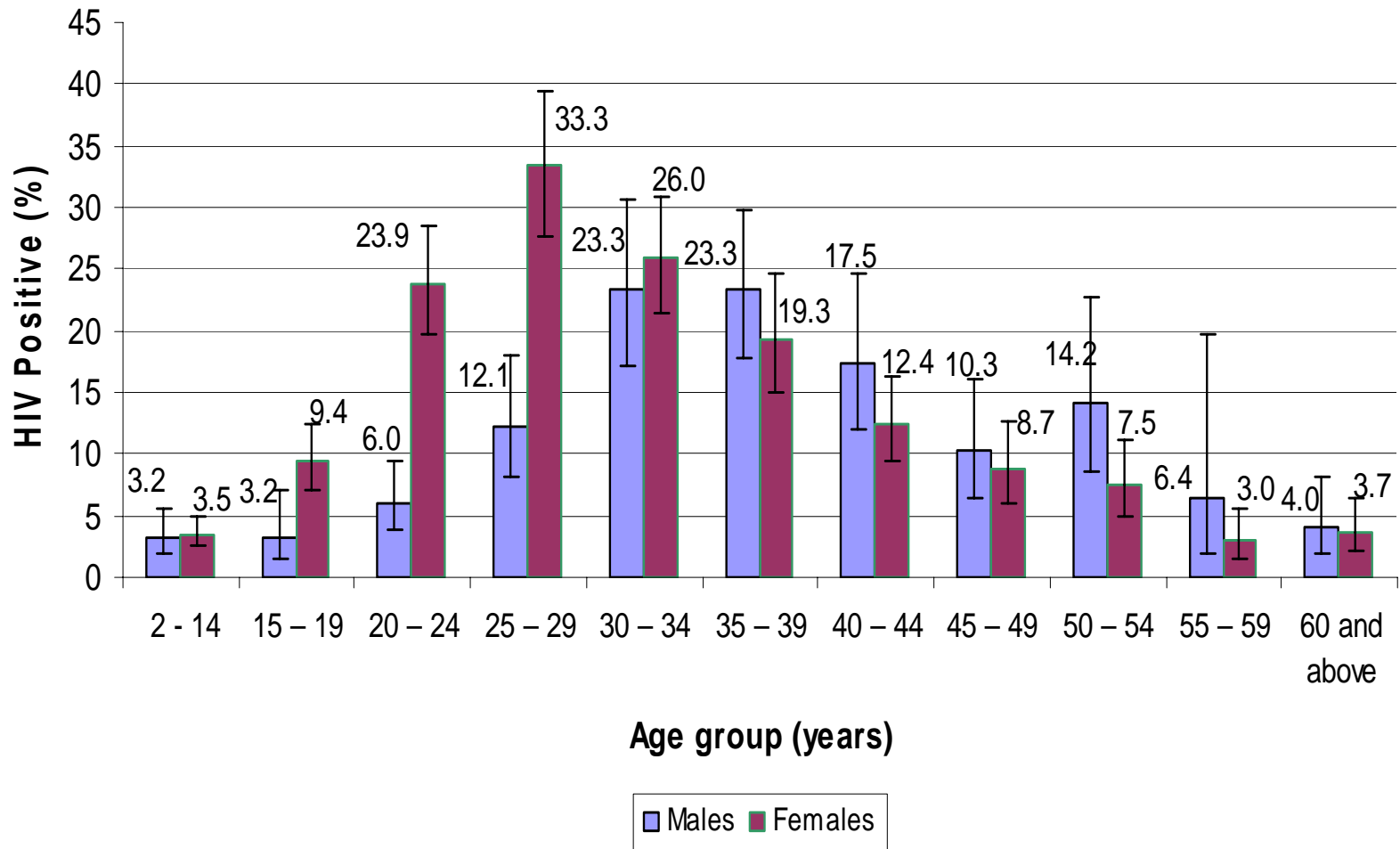


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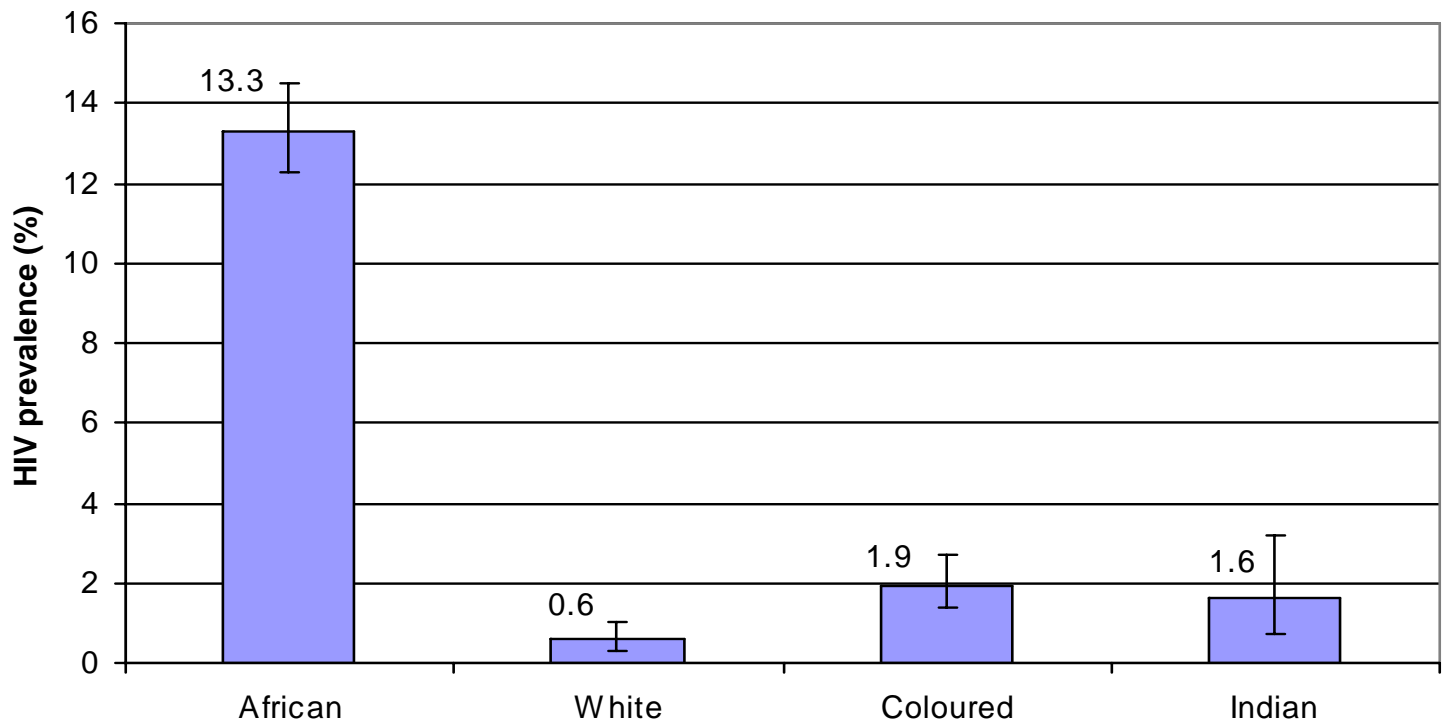
Findings

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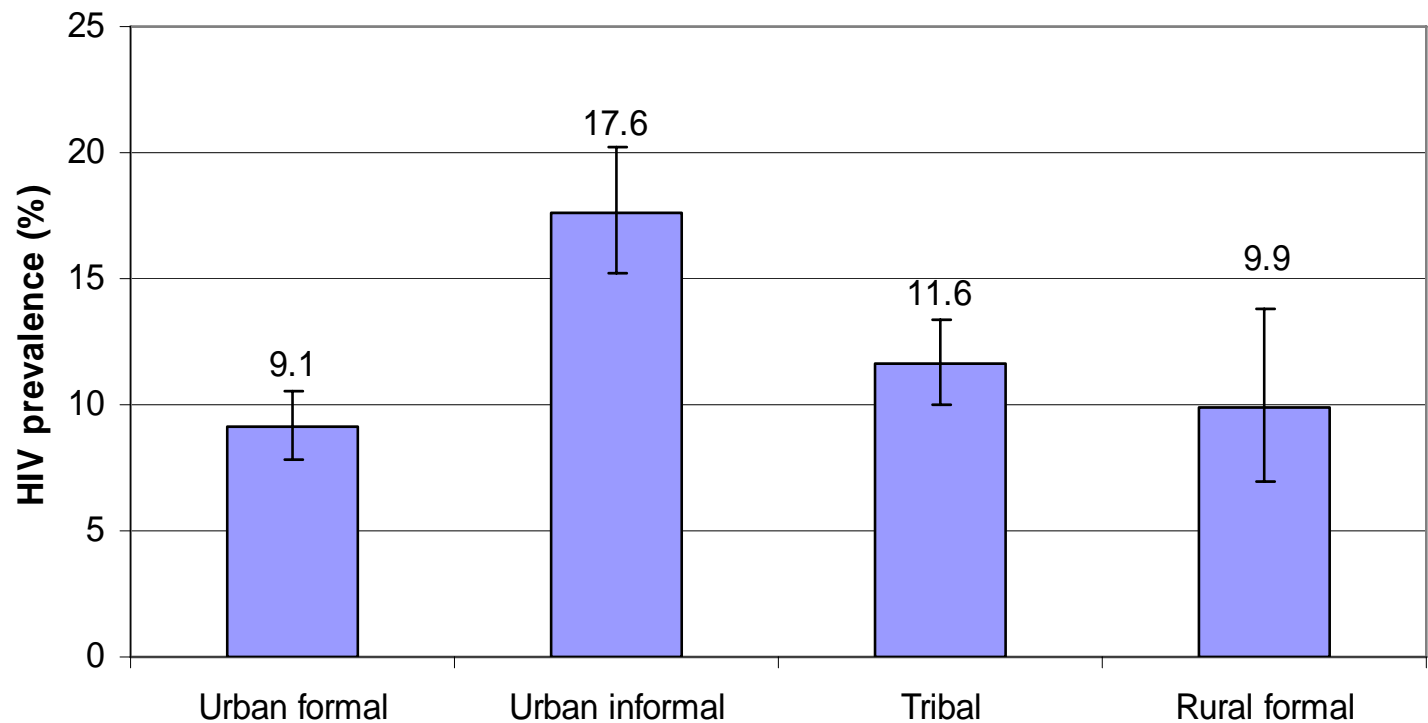
HIV prevalence by sex and age: 2005



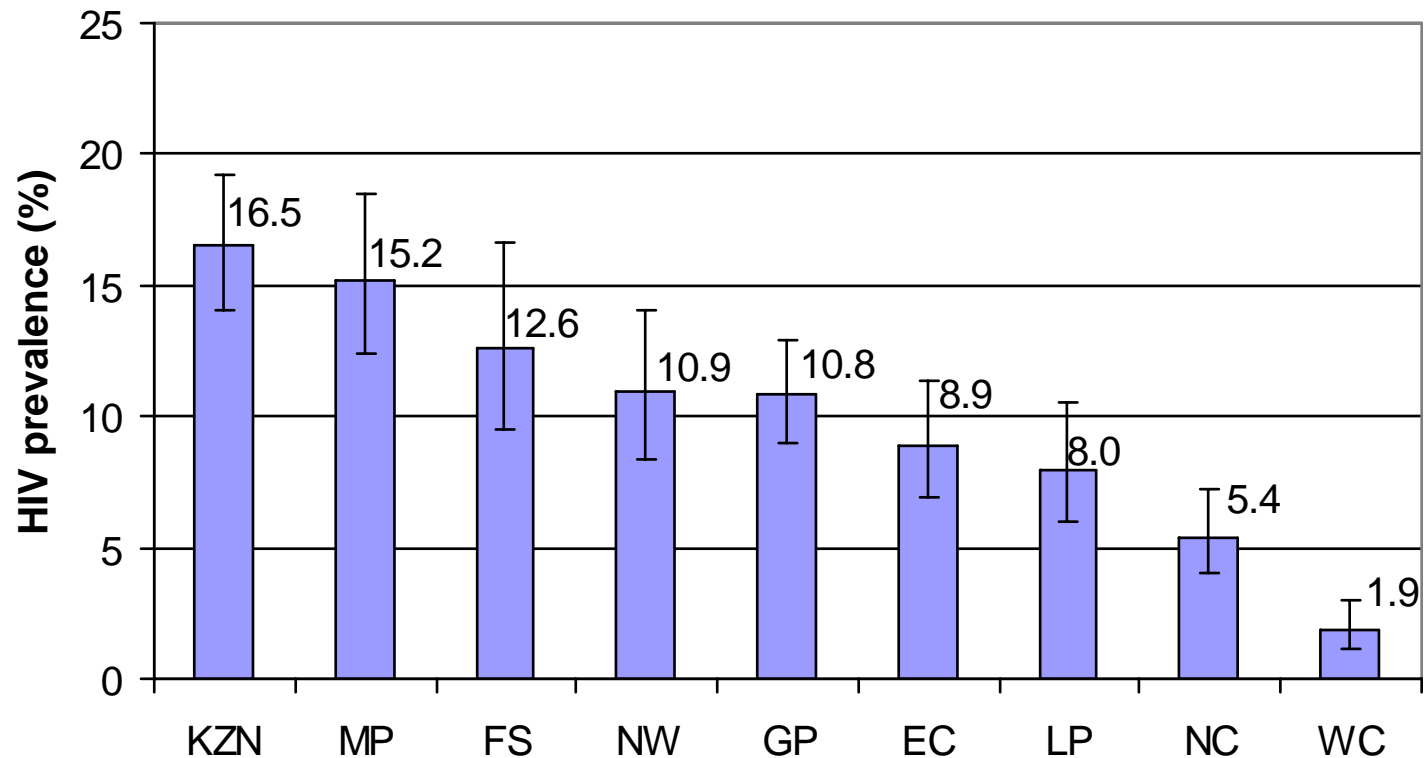
HIV prevalence by race, ≥ 2 : 2005



HIV prevalence by geotype, ≥ 2 : 2005



HIV prevalence by province, ≥ 2 : 2005



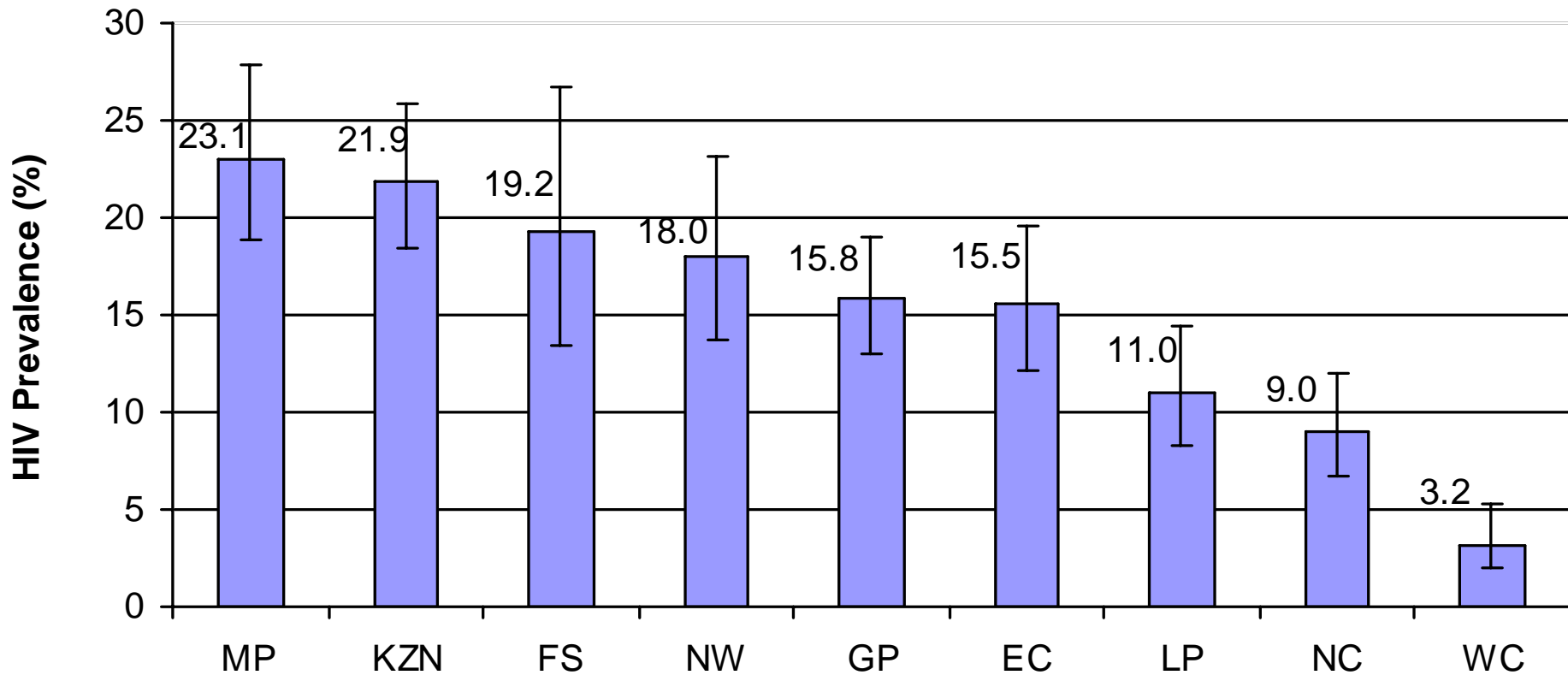
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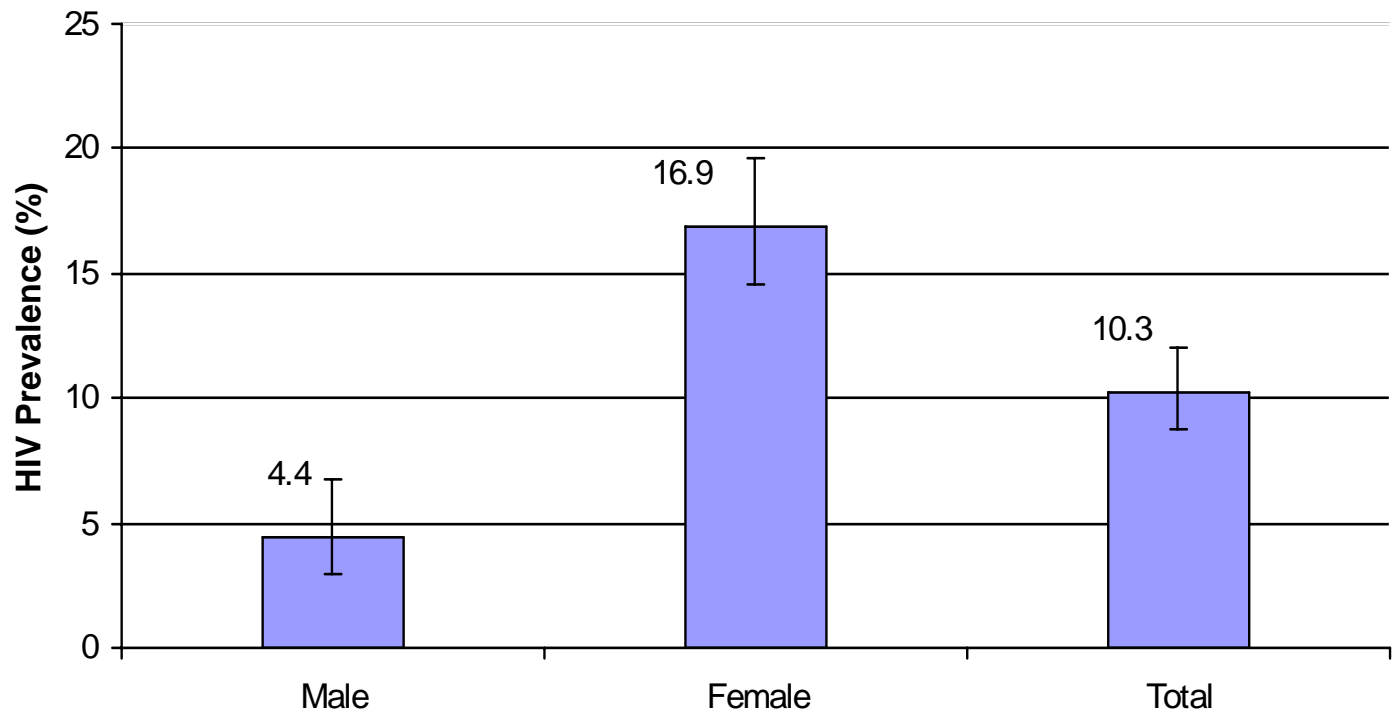
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HIV prevalence among adults aged 15 to 49 years by sex, South Africa 2005



HIV prevalence – youth 15-24 : 2005



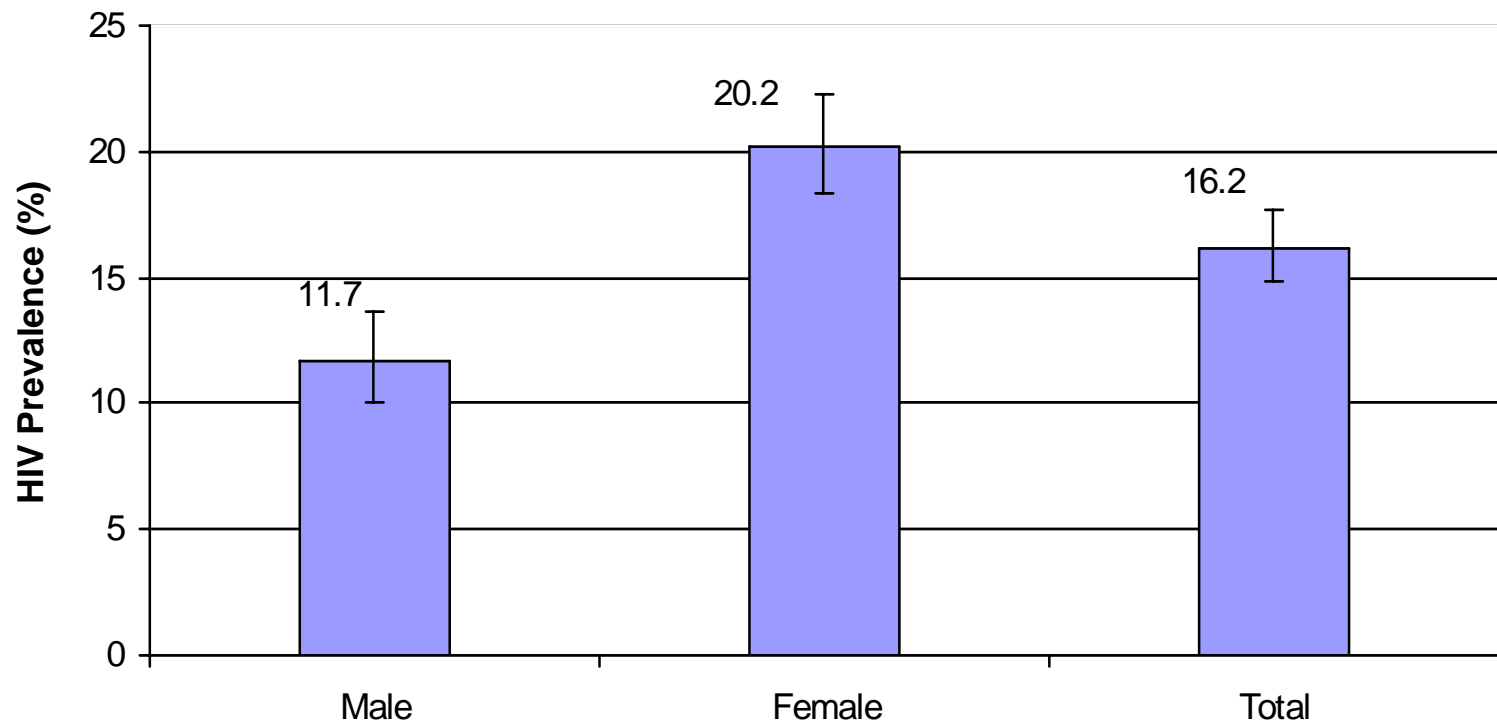
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HIV prevalence – adults 25-49 : 2005



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Females 15-49 in 2005, compared to antenatal study 2004

Age group	African females 2005 • n=3,699	African females pregnant in the last 24 months 2005 • n=630	Antenatal survey 2004 n=15,976
	HIV+ % (n)	HIV+ % (n)	HIV+ % (n)
15 to 19	11.1 (766)	21.8 (58)	16.1 (3,130)
20 to 24	27.3 (819)	27.8 (215)	30.8 (4,991)
25 to 29	37.9 (435)	37.2 (126)	38.5 (3,702)
30 to 34	31.7 (454)	25.1 (98)	34.4 (2,510)
35 to 39	24.1 (458)	18.7 (84)	24.5 (1,261)
40 to 49	14.3 (767)	12.9 (49)	17.5 (382)
Total	24.4	26.8	29.5

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Estimation of HIV incidence

- New tests allow for identification of recent infection using blood samples (including from blood spots)
 - BED capture EIA
- Developed by Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Almost 16,000 specimens in survey allowed for identification of recent infection - ie. Past 180 days
- 181 samples with recent infection identified

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HIV incidence estimates : 2005

Age group	Number with recent HIV infection (past 6 months)	Estimate for annual HIV incidence in this group (weighted)
2 years and older	181	2.7%
Children (2-14)	11	0.9%
Youth (15-24)	70	3.3%
Males (15-24)	9	0.8%
Females (15-24)	61	6.5%
Adults (≥25)	100	3.6%
Male (≥25)	34	2.4%
Female (≥25)	130	6.3%

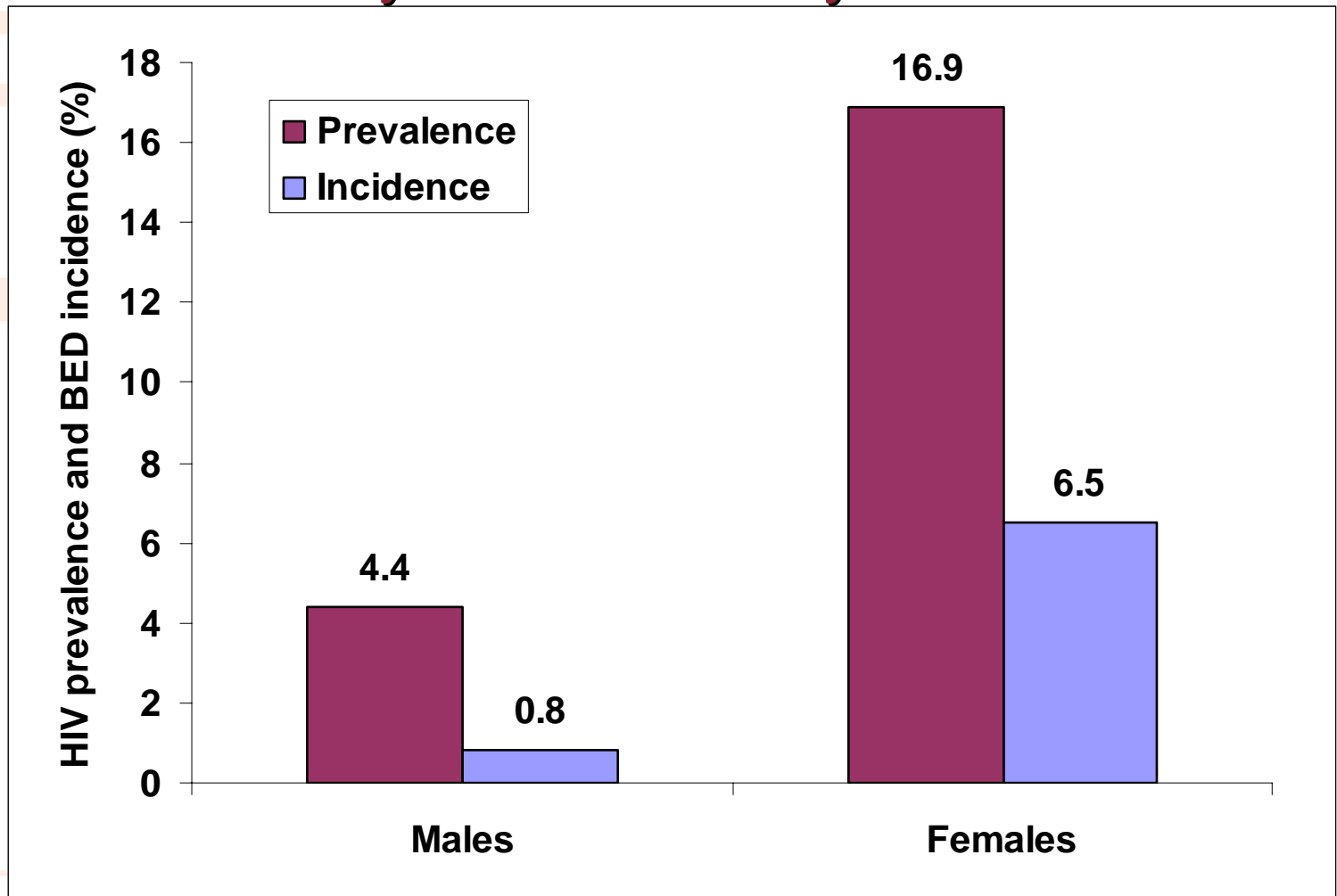
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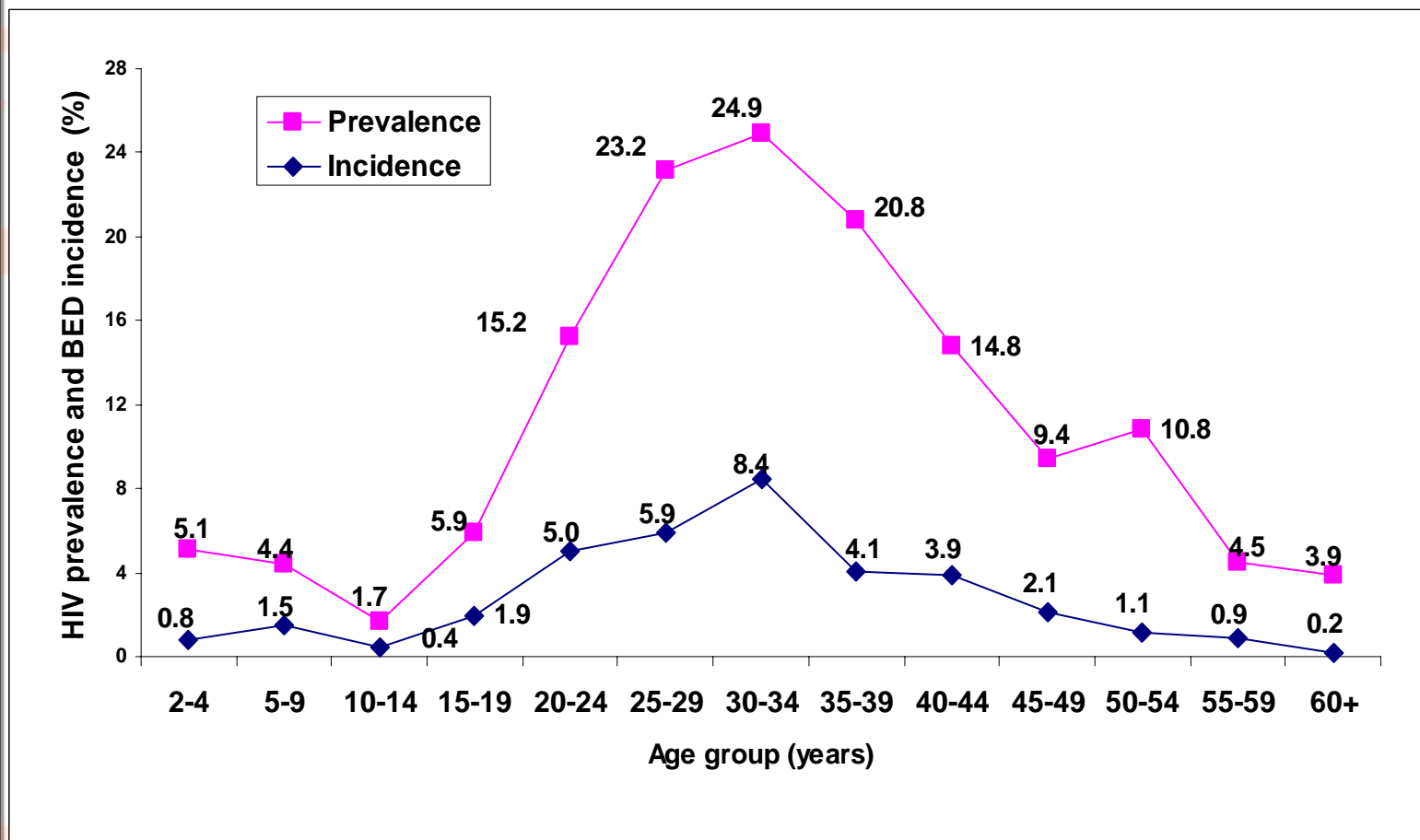
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HIV prevalence and BED incidence among youth 15 – 24 years



HIV prevalence and BED HIV incidence by age group



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Behavioural determinants

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Sexual debut

- Delayed onset of sexual activity (sexual debut) reduces incidence and prevalence of HIV in younger age groups
- Very few 12-14 year olds reported having had sex
- Amongst 15 year olds surveyed, 11.7% of males and 7.9% of females had previously had sex
- Amongst 20 year olds surveyed, 74.8% of males and 80.0% of females had previously had sex
- Of those who had not had sex before, 71% said they were not ready, and 22.9% said they were not interested in sex
- The current trend identified is that the average age of first sex is becoming younger with each generation

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Secondary abstinence

- Secondary abstinence refers to those individuals who have had sex before, but who have not had sex in the past year
- Secondary abstinence reduces HIV infection risk
- Secondary abstinence levels:
 - 23.0% of males and 20.0% of females aged 15-24
 - 9.8% of males and 21.3% of females aged 25-49
 - 30.3% of males and 71.3% of females aged ≥ 50

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Multiple sexual partnerships

- Having frequent sexual partner turnover, even if one is faithful to one's partner, increases HIV risk
- More than one partner in past year amongst those sexually active in past year:
 - 27% for males and 6% for females aged 15-24
 - 14.4% for males and 1.8% for females aged 25-49
 - 9.8% for males and 0.3% for females aged ≥ 50
- Overall rates were higher for informal settlements
 - 20.0% for males and 3.5% for females
- HIV prevalence for those with more than 1 partner in past year was higher
 - 20.6% for >1 partner, 16.3% for 1 partner

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Age mixing

- Having a partner 5 years or older poses high HIV infection risk for youth, as it exposes them to a higher prevalence age group
- Only 2.0% of sexually active males aged 15-19 had female partners 5 or more years older
- 18.5% of sexually active females aged 15-19 had had male partners 5 or more years older
- HIV prevalence of 15-19 year olds
 - 29.5% for females with partner ≥ 5 years older
 - 17.2% for females with partner within 5 years of own age
 - 19.0% for males with partner ≥ 5 years older
 - 3.0% for males with partner within 5 years of own age

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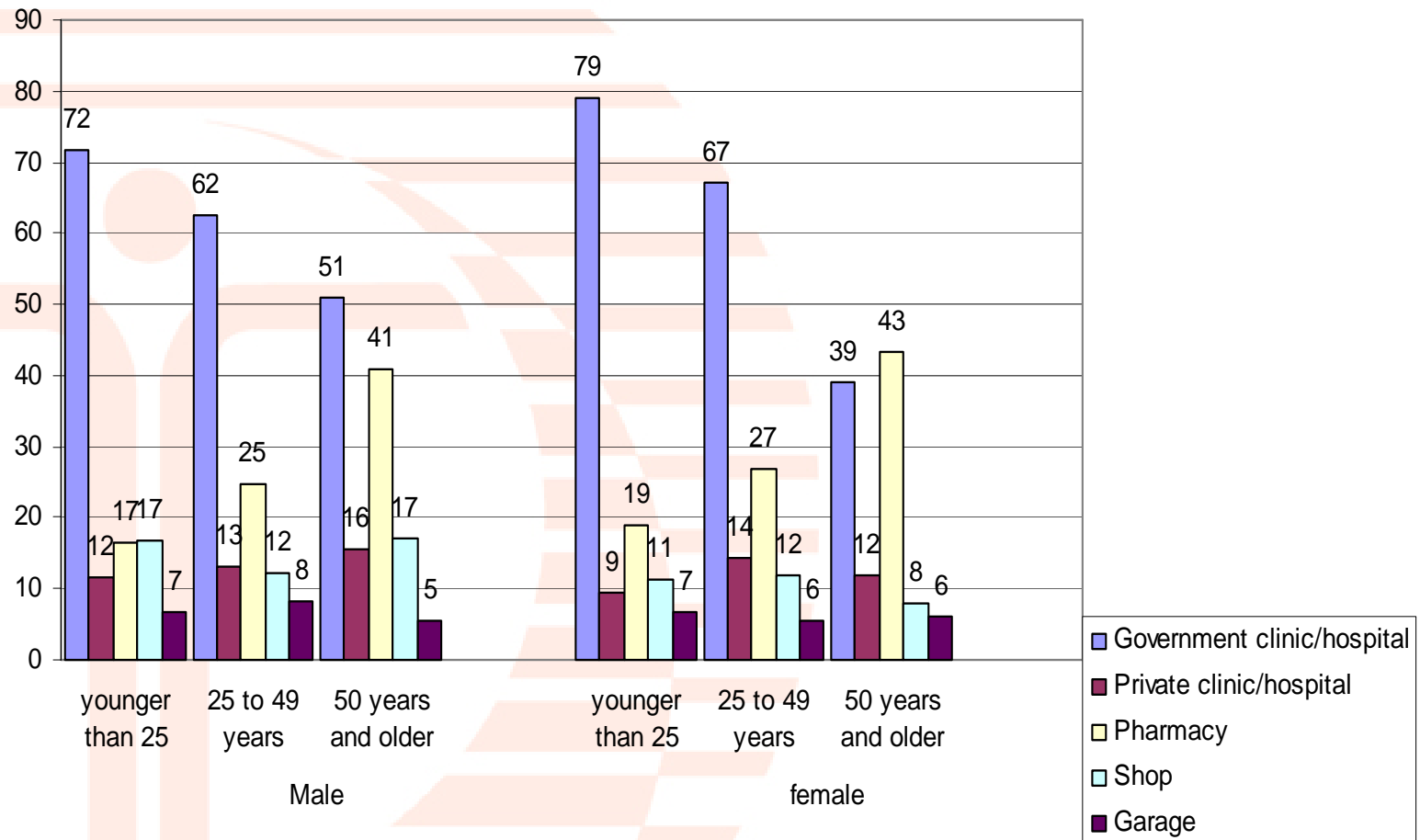
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Condom access and use

- Main source of condoms is the Department of Health's public sector condom programme
- Condom distribution has increased from 267 million in 2001 to 346 million in 2004

Condom Brand most recently used	%
Choice condom (government brand)	25.8%
Red ribbon (previous government brand)	17.9%
Lovers Plus (social marketing brand)	17.6%
Durex (commercial brand)	8.2%
Trust (social marketing brand)	3.4%
Other or don't know	27.2%

Source of condoms



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Condom use at last sex

- Consistent condom use protects against HIV infection
- Condom use at last sex is used to measure uptake and impact of condom promotion programmes
- Reported condom use at last sex is high in South Africa
 - 38% of males and 32.8% of females ≥ 15 used a condom at last sex
 - 72.8% of males and 55.7% of females 15-24 used a condom at last sex
- Condom use rates are highest amongst Africans ≥ 15
 - 43.6% for males and 38.1% for females
- Rates for males were lowest amongst whites – 16.7%
- Rates were higher for those with >1 partner in last year – 62.3%

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Perceived susceptibility to HIV infection

- 66% of respondents think they are not at risk for HIV
- 20.8% of those who thought they are at high risk were found to be HIV positive.
- 51% of HIV positive people thought they probably or definitely not get infected with HIV.

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HIV testing

- Most people aware of VCT services nearby (78.8%)
- Of those who have never been tested for HIV, 12.8% are HIV positive
- Of those ever tested, over one third were tested in the past year
- Only 4.6% of those tested in government facilities were neutral or unsatisfied with the service
- Most people were tested because they wanted to know their HIV status, but other reasons included applying for insurance, being pregnant, or feeling ill
- The main reason for not testing was a perception of low risk to HIV infection

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HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness

- Overall basic HIV/AIDS knowledge is high, and levels of condom use and VCT service uptake are also an indication of good awareness
- There are however gaps in knowledge:
 - Uncertainty about HIV causing AIDS
 - Uncertainty about a cure for AIDS
 - Uncertainty about condoms preventing HIV infection
 - Uncertainty about HIV transmission from mother to child
- High degree of uncertainty that having fewer sexual partners reduces HIV risk
- Awareness of Antiretrovirals is high, beliefs that AIDS can be cured persist
- Knowledge of research on vaccines low

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HIV/AIDS attitudes

- Overall positive perceptions towards people living with HIV/AIDS
- 90.7% are willing to care for a family member with AIDS
- 79.8% feel HIV+ children should *not* be kept separate from other children to prevent infection
- 74.7% believe it is *not* a waste of money to train or promote an HIV+ person
- 46.5% say it is *not* foolish to marry a person with HIV/AIDS
- 46.8% would have a problem having protected sex with an HIV+ person

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HIV/AIDS Communication

- Overall access to mass media is high – but only 83% of households had a working radio and 70% had a working television
- Radio and television access a few days a week or more is high >60%
- Newspaper and magazine access is low <40%
- Internet access is very low
- Radio and television emphasised in relation to taking HIV/AIDS seriously
- Knowing people who have died of AIDS, talking to friends and AIDS statistics also stimulate sense of seriousness

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National HIV/AIDS Campaigns

- Campaigns and programmes contribute to overall knowledge and awareness and impact in some areas (eg. Condoms, VCT)
- Measured awareness of campaigns, *not* impact
- Differ in terms of goals, scale and budgets
- Khomanani found to have lower reach than others
- Soul City highest overall, followed by loveLife and Soul Buddyz
- TV series, Takalani Sesame, Gazlam and Tsha Tsha had high awareness relative to budget
- All interventions have poor awareness amongst ≥ 50 age group
- Overall, most interventions have low reach into rural areas

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Other sources of HIV/AIDS information

- Health facilities most important overall for all age ranges and locales
- Schools perceived as useful for youth audiences
- Friends and other family important
- Workplaces useful over half of employed persons
- Parents important to around a third of youth age groups
- Faith-based organisations important for more than a third of all age groups
- Traditional healers rated relatively low

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Orphans

- Orphaning exacerbated by HIV/AIDS
- 2005 Estimate of Orphans in SA: 2.5 million
- Estimates are that there are 455,970 maternal orphans and that there are 330,125 double orphans
- 2.6% of children 12-18 identified themselves as heads of households

	Orphans % (n)	Maternal Orphans % (n)	Paternal Orphans % (n)	Double Orphans % (n)
Total	15.9 (1 277)	5 .3(431)	12.4 (978)	2.0 (132)
Males	15.7 (588)	5.4 (209)	12.2 (445)	2.0 (66)
Females	16.1 (689)	5.2 (222)	12.8 (533)	2.0 (66)



Perceptions of hypothetical AIDS tax

- Some degree of willingness amongst employed persons to pay and AIDS tax

Race	n	%
African	4,594	51.4%
Coloured	1,636	53.1%
Indian	1,096	36.4%
White	1,312	30.0%

Conclusions

- HIV prevalence has levelled off
- Females significantly more vulnerable to infection and incidence levels are high amongst children, women, youth, and younger adults and pregnant women
- HIV prevalence amongst people ≥ 50 confirmed
- Behavioural response is positive and increasing in relation to condoms and VCT
- Partner turnover is high and not perceived as a major risk
- Early sexual debut and sex with older partners are major risk factors for youth
- Good response in relation to non-stigmatising attitudes and involvement in community-level activities

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Recommendations

- Still a false sense of security needs to be addressed
- Women encouraged to increase condom use
- Periodic HIV testing is crucial
- Young people should be encouraged to delay sexual debut
- Sexually active youth should avoid older partners
- Avoid high partner turnover and concurrent sexual partnerships

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Recommendations

- Refocus communication strategy to expand areas of focus
- Warn older South Africans that they too are at risk of HIV
- HIV infection among children is real and needs emphasis
- Include children and older people in surveillance and modelling the HIV/AIDS epidemic

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